

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 10 and 12 will be pending. By this amendment, claim 10 has been amended, and claims 1 – 9 and 11 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Allowed Claim 12

It is appreciatively noted that claim 12 is allowed.

§ 102 Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11

In Section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stahl (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,020).

Claims 1-9 and 11 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9 and 11 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter of Claim 10

In Section 3 of the Office Action, claim 10 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. It is appreciatively noted that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 has been amended as advised. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection to claim 10 has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 10 and 12 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

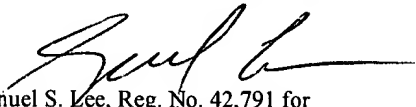
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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